高校3年間で一度だけ部活をさぼったことがある。
仮病つかって学校早退して、
風の強い日で、なかなか自転車が進まなくて……。
変なドキドキ感を今も覚えている。

寺嶋裕二

Yuji Terajima Presents

Ace of Diamond

ダイヤのA エース

12

寺嶋裕二

青道

Shonen Magazine Comics

KCM 4040

KC MAGAZINE

ダイヤのA エース 12

寺嶋裕二

講談社

Ace of Diamond

センバツ出場チームの敗退……。夏の嵐が吹き荒れた!
大会の台風の目――一年生スラッガー・轟雷市を中心に
強力打線を誇る薬師高校との準々決勝。
薬師の鳥監督は様々な戦略で揺さぶりをかけてくる。
対する青道も完全臨戦態勢、最強リレーで迎え撃つ!!
青道投手陣は、勢いある薬師打線を抑えることができるのか!?

12
寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA
エース

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●週刊少年マガジン2008年第20号～2008年第29号

この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは、
一切関係ありません。

CONTENTS

ONE OF THE SPRING TOURNA-MENT'S BEST 8, ICHIDAI, LOSES
ECOMING
YPHOON?
UHI HIGH
HOOL
A BIG SURPRISE AT THE WEST TOKYO TOUR-NAMENT
CHAPTER 94/ REGAINING THE MATCH SENSE

HEY... IT'S QUITE BIG IN THE NEWS-PAPER!
THEY EVEN ADDED A PHOTO
WELL, OF COURSE... THE FAVOURITE TO WIN LOST IN THE THIRD ROUND...

BECOMING A TYPHOON? YAKUSHI HIGH SCHOOL

TCH... INAJITSU WHITE-WASHED AGAIN.
SENSEN ALSO ADVANCED
THAT'S HOW SCARY IT IS WHEN YOU'RE ONLY GIVEN ONE CHANCE
◇東東京
▽3回戦
翔　陸　2－3　市大豊山
黒士館　2－5　白　洋
駒峰学院　5－1　都水江
都小島　7－2　東花商
黒田工　3－0　都明京
▽4回戦
本西工　2－1　都宮倉
波　倉　5－2　尾
ZEIZEN...
黒士館

TODOROKI RAICHI〰
I DEFINITELY WON'T LOSE TO HIM!!

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE OUR PITCHER LINE-UP WE'RE SO PROUD OF～～
WE'LL WIN～!
WIN!! WIN～!!
TH-THEY'RE PRETTY FIRED UP.
THE GAME YESTERDAY WAS JUST TOO STIMU-LATING.
NOT TO MENTION THAT TODO-ROKI IS STILL A FRESHMAN
THEY DON'T LISTEN AT ALL.
I TOLD THEM TO TAKE IT EASY TODAY, BUT I GUESS I WASTED MY BREATH
UWAA～ INASHIRO'S HARUMIYA～!!
I'LL BLOW HIM AWAY!!
LIKE HELL I'LL LOSE TO HIM～
NOT TO MY-SELF～

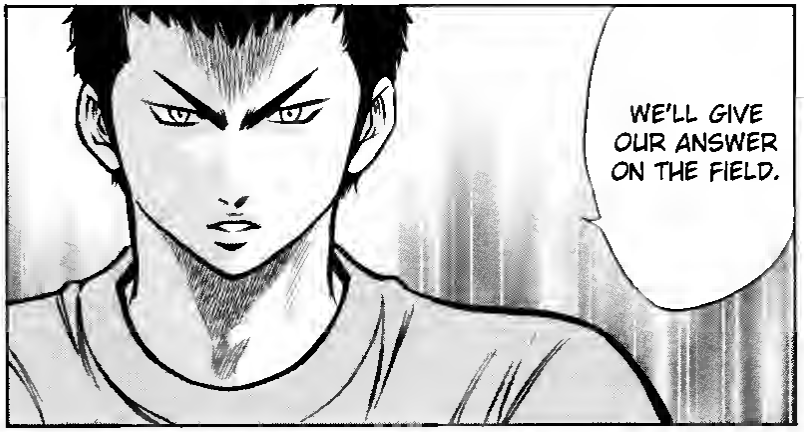
EH?
ACTUALLY, YESTERDAY...
WHAAAT
WH-
WH-WHA-

DON'T SCREW WITH ME!
THEY SAID SOMETHING THAT RIDICULOUS!?
I ALREADY HAD MY HANDS FULL STOPPING EIJUN-KUN..
G- GOOD THING HE WASN'T THERE AT THAT TIME
WE AREN'T EVEN ON THEIR RADAR!?
BROTHER!?
SO!? I HOPE YOU SMACKED THEM A GOOD ONE?
BUT THAT'S WHAT THEY MEANT!!
Have they forgotten about our ace!?
WELL, NOT IN THOSE EXACT WORDS

BE IT ICHIDAI OR YAKUSHI,
WE'RE JUST GOING TO CRUSH THE OPPONENT IN FRONT OF US

JUST BRING IT ON, YAKUSHI~~

DON'T BE ANGRY WITH STOMACH SOUNDS ALONE!!


WE'LL GIVE OUR ANSWER ON THE FIELD.

I GUESS ONLY INAJITSU CAN MAKE FOR A GOOD OPPONENT....

UHHH ...
TETSU... THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE OOZING OUT OF YOU...

THEY'RE REALLY LOOKING DOWN ON OUR PITCHER LINE-UP...
DON'T HIDE IN THE SHADOWS!!

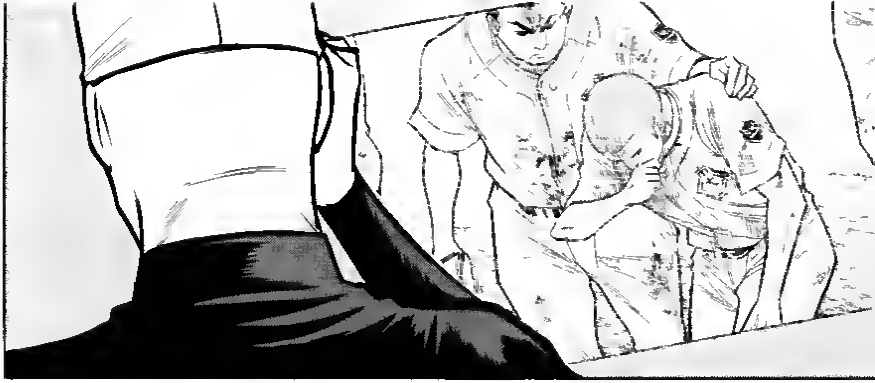
[SHEET BATTING: PRACTICE WITH FIELDERS TO SIMULATE AN ACTUAL GAME]

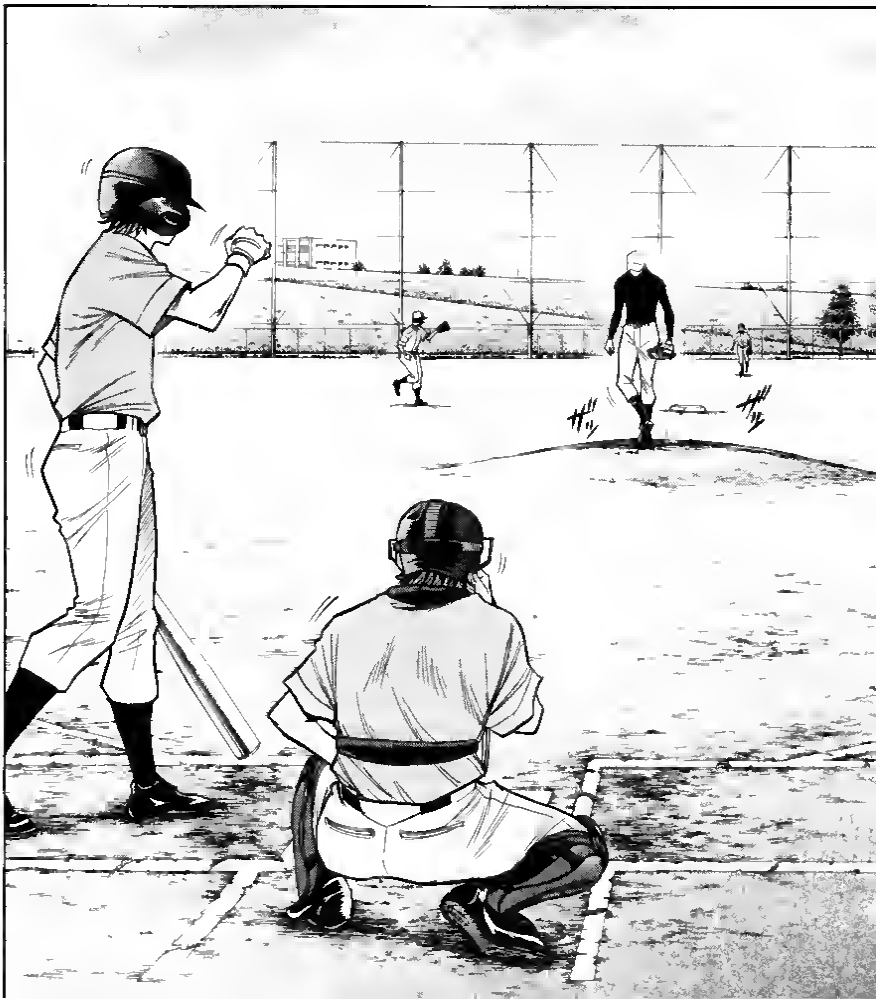
I WANT TO REGAIN MY MATCH SENSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HAHAHA. WITH US!?
THAT'S WHAT I CALL GUTS. I LIKE IT!!

.....
...HMM.

I WANT A REAL MATCH.
YEAH, I KNOW.
STILL, WE CAN'T GO EASY ON YOU.
ESPECIALLY AGAINST HIM.
YES!!
WHOEVER'S FREE, GET ON A DEFENSIVE POSITION!
OKAY. WE'VE GOT AN HOUR UNTIL PRACTICE! LET'S GET STARTED!!
THAT ONLY LEAVES HIS PITCHING TO WORRY ABOUT...
BUT IT SEEMS THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM...
SO FAR, HE ONLY RECOVERED WITH ICHIDAI IN MIND, SO I WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS MOTIVATION....





IF YOU WANT A REAL MATCH, YOU ALSO NEED A RUNNER!!
HYA-HAHA
I'VE GOT THE LEFT COVERED!!
I won't make any more errors
Ah~
YOU CAN LET HIM HIT, TANBA!!
PLEASE LEAVE THE BACK TO US!!
LET'S GET SERIOUS FOR THE FIRST PITCH!!
TANBA-SAN!

SAWA-MURA.
IF IT'S SOMETHING INTEREST-ING, LET ME IN TOO!
HEY... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IF YOU'RE STEPPING ON THE MOUND, THEN I'LL BE YOUR OPPO-NENT!
BRING IT ON, TANBA.
WE'RE STARTING WITH A NO OUTS AND RUNNER ON FIRST!!
I'LL JUST MINCE YOU TWO INTO OBLIVION, THOUGH.
M-Mince!?

BUT I'LL...
HYUHA
IT SEEMS YOUR CHECK-ING HASN'T RUSTED.

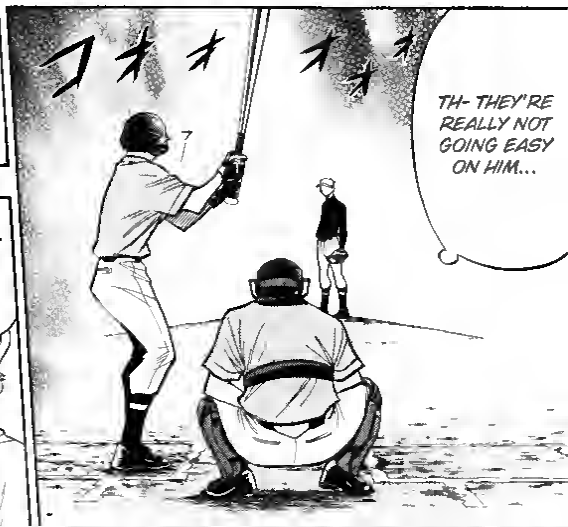
RUN EVEN WITHOUT ANY LEAD.
STUPID IDIOT!
KUH.

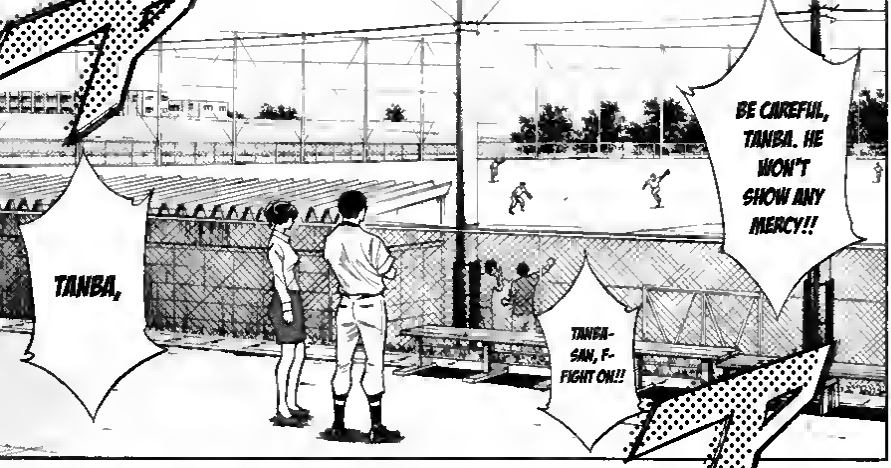
H- HOW CAN HE DO THAT WITHOUT ANY SIGNS!?
Ah~
H- HIT AND RUN!
Y- YES!!
スビッシャア
YOU GUYS LISTEN WELL, TOO!
YAKUSHI WON'T DO ANY BUNTS!!
THAT'S WHY THEY'LL HIT ANY WEAK PITCHES OUT OF THE PARK!!

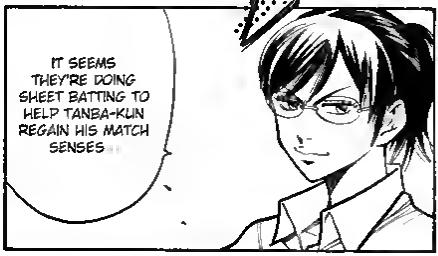
NEXT IS NO OUTS WITH RUNNERS ON FIRST AND ON THIRD.
青道

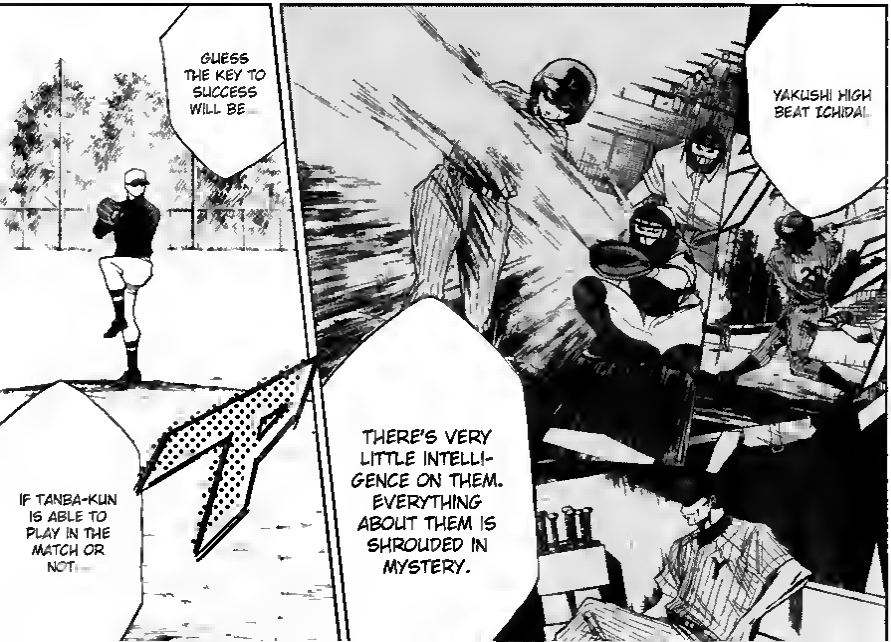
Mince...

IT'LL BE GOOD PRACTICE.
WHY DON'T YOU ALSO GIVE IT A TRY?


TH- THEY'RE REALLY NOT GOING EASY ON HIM...

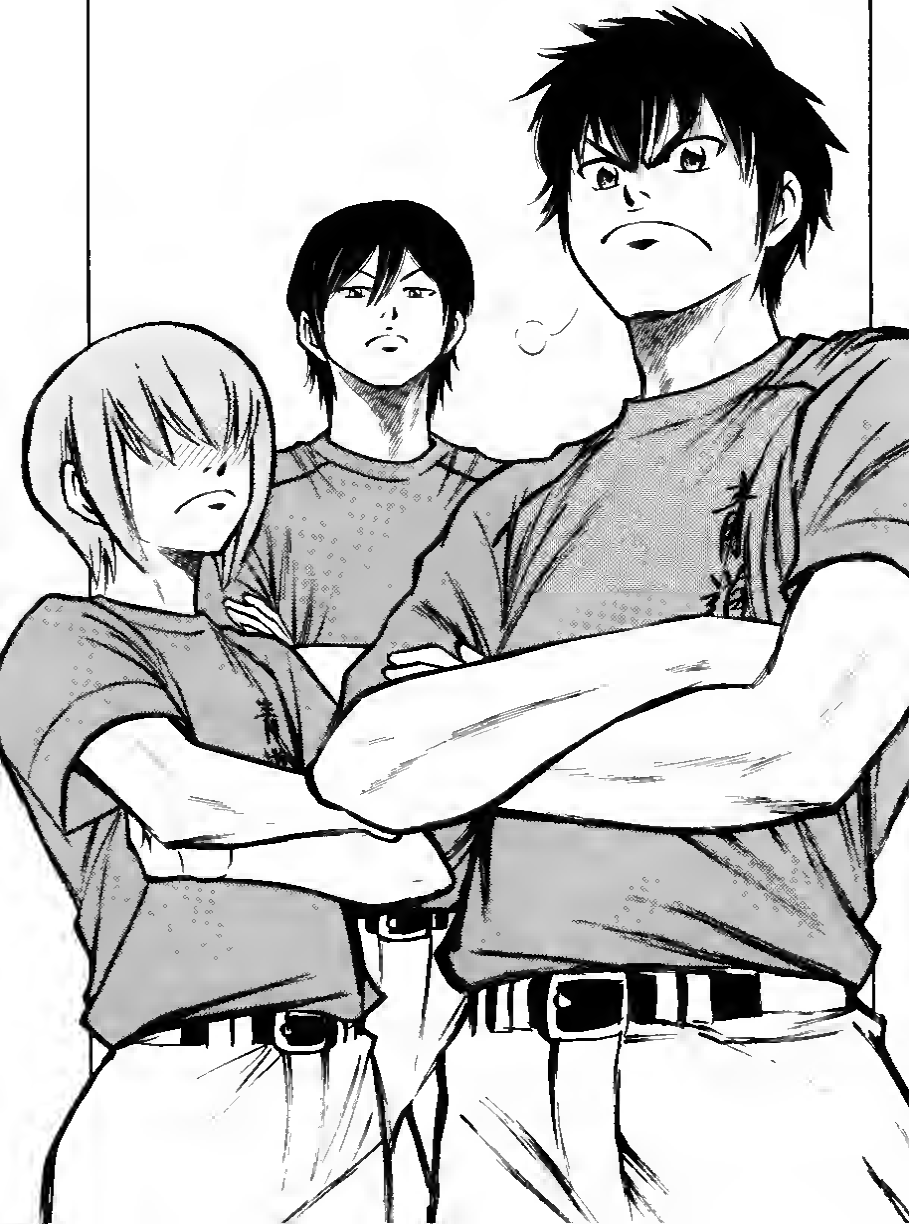

TANBA,
BE CAREFUL, TANBA. HE WON'T SHOW ANY MERCY!!
TANBA-SAN, F-FIGHT ON!!


IT SEEMS THEY'RE DOING SHEET BATTING TO HELP TANBA-KUN REGAIN HIS MATCH SENSES...


GUESS THE KEY TO SUCCESS WILL BE...
IF TANBA-KUN IS ABLE TO PLAY IN THE MATCH OR NOT...
THERE'S VERY LITTLE INTELLI-GENCE ON THEM. EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.
YAKUSHI HIGH BEAT ICHIDAI.

HEH...
SEEMS HE'S READY TO FIGHT—
HMM~ 3 RUNS.
READ THE BATTING-FORM, TRYSH!!
ハロウィーン

CHAPTER 95/ JADE PLANT

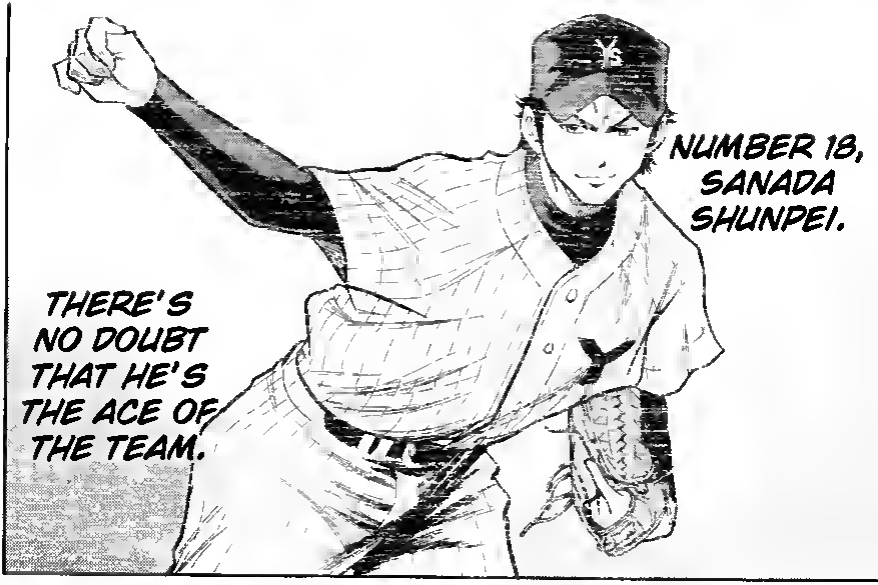


JULY, 25TH.
4TH ROUND, YAKUSHI - TORITSU CHIGUSA
薬師 3 0 2 3 0
都千草 1 0 2 0 0
RUN
Ys
2

19

UWAAA. THIS CLEAN-UP HITTER IS UNSTOPPABLE.
IS HE REALLY A FRESH-MAN!?
PITCHER, SANADA-KUN.
SANADA-KUN, SUBBING IN FOR NUMBER 6, MINO-KUN.
18
18
SUNY

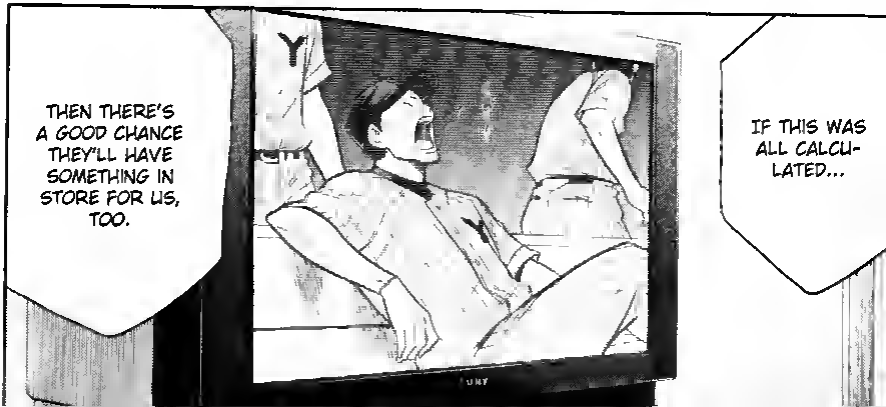
AFTER THAT, HE PITCHED UNTIL THE 7TH INNING, WHEN THE GAME WAS CALLED AT 12-3.
THEY STILL CARRIED THE MOMENTUM OF THEIR VICTORY OVER ICHIDAI,
SO YAKUSHI MADE THEIR WAY INTO THE BEST EIGHT AFTER ALL.
STRONG PITCHING FOCUSED ON IN-COURSES,
IT WAS ALSO THIS RIGHT-HANDER THAT HELD DOWN ICHIDAI 2 INNINGS IN THE LATER HALF.
AND AIMING AT THE CHEST FOR RIGHT-HANDED BATTERS.


NUMBER 18, SANADA SHUNPEI.
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT HE'S THE ACE OF THE TEAM.

THAT, I DON'T KNOW...
HOWEVER... THEY USED THIS UNORTHODOX TACTIC OF PRESERVING THEIR ACE AND SUDDENLY SWITCHING OUT THE CLEAN-UP HITTER...

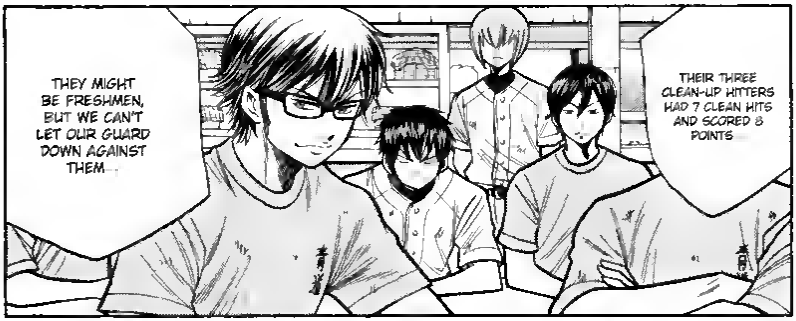
PRETTY UNIQUE PITCH...

HE GOT A HANDICAP...?
WHY AIN'T HE PITCHING FROM THE START?


THEN THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THEY'LL HAVE SOMETHING IN STORE FOR US, TOO.
IF THIS WAS ALL CALCULATED...

#3 Mishima
#4 Todoroki
#5 Akiba

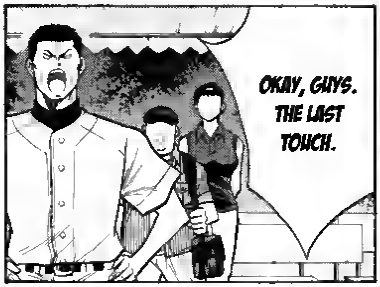
AND WHAT'S MORE, THEIR LINE-UP:


THEY MIGHT BE FRESHMEN, BUT WE CAN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN AGAINST THEM...
THEIR THREE CLEAN-UP HITTERS HAD 7 CLEAN HITS AND SCORED 8 POINTS...

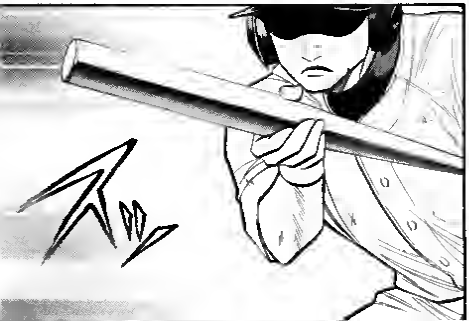
THEY STOLE A BASE SEVEN TIMES, EH...
YES... THEIR AGGRESSIVE RUNNING MADE UP FOR THEIR LACK OF BUNTING....

WHILE WE HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO THEIR AGGRESSIVE RUNNERS, WE ALSO NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR THEIR STRONG BATTER LINE-UP
THE FACT THEY DON'T BUNT WILL ACTUALLY PUT MORE PRESSURE ON THE PITCH-ERS!!
THEY MIGHT BE HARDER TO BEAT THAN WE THINK...

YAKUSHI
HIGH SCHOOL
TOKYO,
SUGINAMI

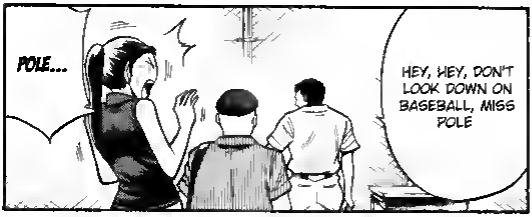

OKAY, GUYS.
THE LAST
TOUCH.

カーン
カーン


スッ

フッ
フッ
フッ

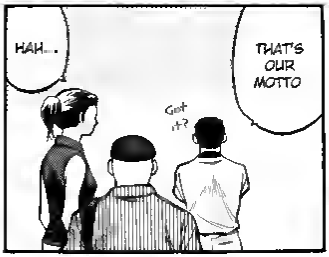
PUT SOME HEART IN IT!!
THOSE WHO CAN'T BUNT PROPERLY DURING PRACTICE WON'T BUNT IN ANY GAMES.


POLE...
HEY, HEY, DON'T LOOK DOWN ON BASEBALL, MISS POLE

THE TEAM WITH BATTERS WHO NEVER BUNT IS PRACTICING BUNTS NOW
TH- THAT'S UNEXPECTED

THAT CONFIDENCE IS WHAT LETS US HIT THE BALL.
WE CAN BUNT AT ANY TIME.

IN THE END, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THE PLAYERS IN BASEBALL...
YOU JUST HAVE TO LET THEM PLAY THE WAY THEY LIKE IT...


HAH...
THAT'S OUR MOTTO
Gee! it?

AND DURING A GAME, YOU FULLY ENJOY BASEBALL.
TRAINING IS STRICT, EFFICIENT AND SEVERE!!
あはは～
くわっ

COACH TODOROKI, YOU PLAYED BASEBALL UNTIL YOUR 40S FOR A COMPANY TEAM, RIGHT?
YEAH WELL DONE RESEARCH
SO WHY HAS AN INCREDIBLE PLAYER LIKE YOU...

WHAT LOOKS LIKE RIDICULOUS TACTICS ON FIRST GLANCE
IS ACTUALLY A WELL THOUGHT-OUT OUTLOOK ON THEIR OWN BASEBALL...
...

BEEN UNEMPLOYED EVER SINCE YOU RETIRED FROM THE TEAM AND QUIT THE COMPANY!?
T... THAT'S A BIT TOO WELL DONE!
BASEBALL IS ALL I CAN DO...
I WAS TEACHING KIDS ON THE STREETS
THEN I RAN OUT OF MONEY. MY WIFE LEFT ME...
AH~~~ I'M REALLY GLAD THIS SCHOOL PICKED ME UP~~~
Such a clear call
H- HE'S NO GOOD!! HE'S A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING ADULT ONLY INTERESTED IN BASEBALL!!
SO IT WAS YOU, AFTER ALL, WHO TAUGHT YOUR SON RAICHI-KUN BASEBALL?
I JUST... GAVE HIM THIS BAT.

Bat Jade Plant

R- RIICHI-KUN IS SWINGING THIS BAT EVERY DAY!?
IT'S THE BAT I PRACTICED WITH BACK IN MY ACTIVE DAYS.
Fufufu
J- JUST HOW HEAVY IS THIS BAT!?
IS IT A MASCOT!? NO, IT'S MORE...

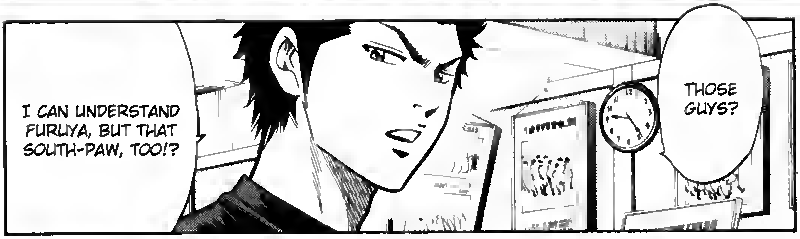
BUT HE STILL KEPT ON SWING-ING THAT BAT.
'Cause he's an idiot
I HAD NO MONEY TO SIGN HIM UP IN ANY TEAMS
HIS MIDDLE SCHOOL DIDN'T HAVE A BASEBALL CLUB, EITHER
SO HE GAINED SOME INCREDIBLE IMAGE TRAINING.
CREATIVITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS,
AND A SWINGING AND DROPPING PITCH.
THE KNUCKLER.
A SLIDER OR CUT BALL THAT SUDDENLY BREAKS
IN FRONT OF THE BATTER.
A 160KM/H
STRAIGHT.

HE SWUNG HIS BAT DAY IN, DAY OUT, WITHOUT REST.
IN HIS MIND, HE CREATED A MONSTROUS PITCHER. AND AGAINST HIM,
HIS HUNGER FOR BASEBALL IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL THESE SANDLOT PLAYING KIDS...

UNLIKE ME, HE'LL BECOME A MAN WHO MAKES TONS OF MONEY WITH JUST A SINGLE BAT—
HE'LL MAKE A FORTUNE.
THAT FURUYA THROWS SOME CRUEL PITCHES.
I HEARD THEY'RE FRESHMEN LIKE US.

THEY HAVE 4 PITCHERS, BUT THE ANNOYING PART IS THEY'RE ALL DIFFERENT TYPES.
THERE'S ALSO THE SIDE-THROWER AND A REGULAR RIGHT-HANDER...
モグ"
モグ"
RAICHI'S DAD TOLD US TO WATCH IT CLOSELY...
ガラッ
YOU GUYS ARE WATCHING THE VIDEO AGAIN...
AH, SANADA-SENPAI.
FATHER AND SON, NEITHER ONE COMPROMISES ON ANYTHING
EVEN WITH THE TAPE OF MANAKA-SAN FROM ICHIDAI, HE WATCHED IT SO MANY TIMES THAT THE TAPE GOT WORN OUT.
Geez

HE HAD AN INCREDIBLE PITCH, JUST LIKE I IMAGINED....
モワ''
モワ''
...FUHN
SO? HOW'S SEIDOU...
CAN YOU IMAGINE IT?
THESE TWO ARE INTERESTING..
KAHAHA!

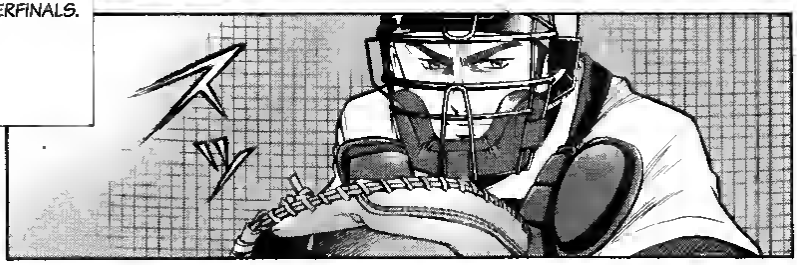

THOSE GUYS?
I CAN UNDERSTAND FURUYA, BUT THAT SOUTH-PAW, TOO!?

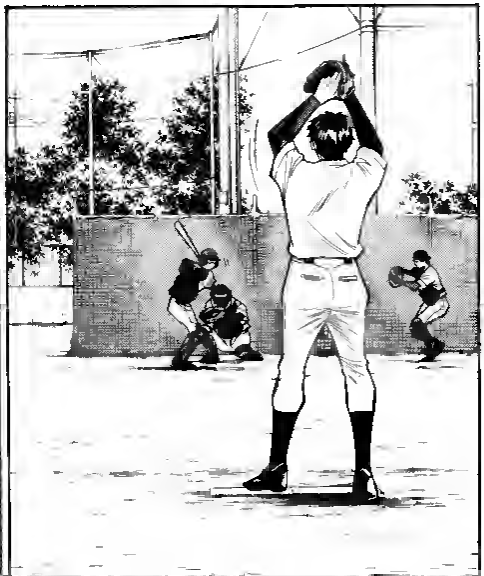
I CAN'T IMAGINE IT PROPERLY WITH JUST THE VIDEO...
HE HAS SOME-THING THAT THE VIDEO DOESN'T CAPTURE...

KAHAHAHA. SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL.
I WANT... I WANT TO PLAY THEM RIGHT AWAY.
C - COULD IT BE THAT YOU DIDN'T GET A JOB JUST SO YOU COULD RAISE RAICHI'S HUNGER FOR BASEBALL?
YEP!
COULD ANYONE EVEN LUST FOR BASEBALL MORE THAN HIM?
HON- ESTLY...

CHAPTER 96/ 3 PITCHERS + ACE

DAY BEFORE THE QUARTERFINALS.





GOOD!

GOOD, GOOD!
GOOD ～!!
HE'S DEFINITELY GOTTEN MORE CONFIDENT AFTER THAT MATCH AGAINST AKIKAWA.
BE QUIET!
HE SEEMS TO BE IN TOP FORM...
TCH...
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE CALLED IT QUITS, SAWAMURA.
HEY HEY, THE MATCH IS TOMORROW
NO... PLEASE, A LITTLE LONGER!
MY PITCH IS STILL WEAK FROM TIME TO TIME,
AND I GET THE FEELING I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD THEM DOWN WITH A HALF-ASSED PITCH...
THAT'S ONLY IF WE GET A CHANCE TO PLAY, SAWAMURA!
I JUST NEED TO BE PREPARED!!

A QUICK WIND-UP AGAINST STEALING?
YES... IT SHOULD WORK WELL AGAINST YAKUSHI...
WELL... NOT BAD.
THOUGH HE MIGHT NOT BE DRAWING OUT HIS FULL POWER WITH THAT FORM.
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS STAMINA
HIS POWER MIGHT DROP, BUT HIS CONTROL IS STILL GOOD.
WE REALLY MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF THIS...

IF YOU CAREFULLY THROW IT LOW IT DEFENDS AGAINST LONG HITS
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT HITTING THE GROUND KAWAKAMI
KAWAKAMI HAS THE BEST CONTROL FOR LOW PITCHES, AFTER ALL!
RIGHT ONO!!

THAT ONLY LEAVES...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT FURUYA-KUN'S STAMINA...
BUT THESE THREE SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD SHAPE.
FUSH!!
YES...
IT'S OFF AGAIN

HE'S OBVIOUSLY GOT THE RIGHT MINDSET,
BUT TANBA-KUN STILL ISN'T BACK TO HIS FORMER STRENGTH ....
TANBA-KUN'S RECOVERY IS ALSO VITAL FOR THE TEAM...
BUT... AFTER ALL, YOU MIGHT ONLY
REGAIN YOUR MATCH SENSES IN A REAL MATCH—

TODAY'S LESSON -
FAIR-MINDEDNESS AT ALL TIMES
立入禁止
WILL BE FURUYA, LIKE ALWAYS
OUR STARTING PITCHER TOMORROW
BUT....

STARTING FROM THE 4TH INNING, IT'LL BE SAWAMURA!!
CONSIDERING FURUYA'S STAMINA WE'LL SWITCH HIM OUT EARLIER TOMORROW.
AND FROM THE 7TH, IT'LL BE KAWAKAMI.
TH- THAT MEANS YOU'RE COUNTING ON ME, RIGHT!?
WIN THE NATIONALS
WELL, THIS MIGHT CHANGE SLIGHTLY DEPENDING ON HOW THE GAME IS GOING.. BE PREPARED IN TIME..
WHEN WE PRE-EMPTIVELY CHANGE OUR PITCHERS BEFORE THEIR BATTING ORDER COMES AROUND, WE CAN PREVENT THEM FROM GETTING USED TO THE PITCHING.
WELL, THEY PITCHED IN THE PREVIOUS GAMES, TOO.
A PITCHING ORDER WITH 3 INNINGS EACH, HUH...
...

WH- WHAT ABOUT TANBA, COACH?
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN CALLED HIM HERE...
THAT ONLY APPLIES WHEN THESE THREE PITCHED LIKE PLANNED...
WELL,
I CAN'T LET HIM GET ON THE MOUND IN HIS CURRENT CONDITION....
ｶﾞ"
ｶﾞ"
N- NO WAY...
HE WAS ALWAYS AIMING FOR THE QUAR- TERFINALS

SO WHAT. TANBA WON'T PITCH IN TOMORROW'S GAME.
YOU GUYS DO YOUR JOB WITH THAT IN MIND!!
STOP CALLING ME BOSS
GOT IT, BOSS!!
I'LL DEFINITELY LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS!!
YES, BOSS!!

WRAAAR
WELL, SOME OF THEM WERE GOOD BUT STILL
GIVE ME SOME BETTER PITCHES!!
WHAT'S UP, TANBA?
WHAT'S UP CALLING IT QUITS?
!!
!!

ONE MORE ROUND, PLEASE...
NO... ONE MORE ROUND....
YOUR STOMACH'S GROWLING...
YEAH... WE'LL STICK WITH YOU UNTIL THE END.
TCH... DON'T EXHAUST YOURSELF BEFORE A GAME.
WE'LL STILL TAG ALONG, THOUGH.
OKAY, 1 OUT AND A RUNNER ON SECOND.
TANBA-SAN IS AMAZING.
CONSIDER-ING THERE'S A GAME TOMORROW.

OH! THAT WAS A NICE ONE!!
EVEN TETSU COULDN'T HIT THAT...
THAT WAS A BALL
NO~~ IT WAS A STRIKE!

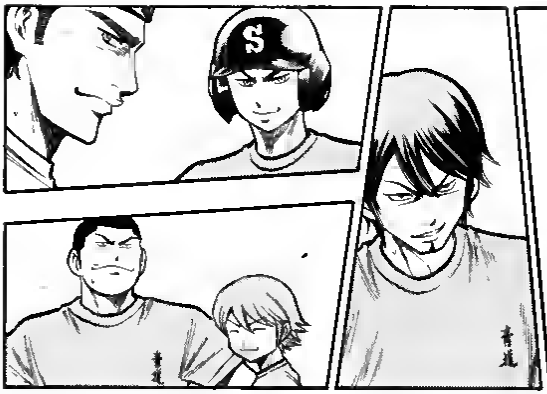
GUYS, THAT'S ENOUGH!
And it WAS a ball
AH- ANOTHER DEVIL SHOWED UP!!

I'LL HELP YOU STRETCH, TANBA-SAN...

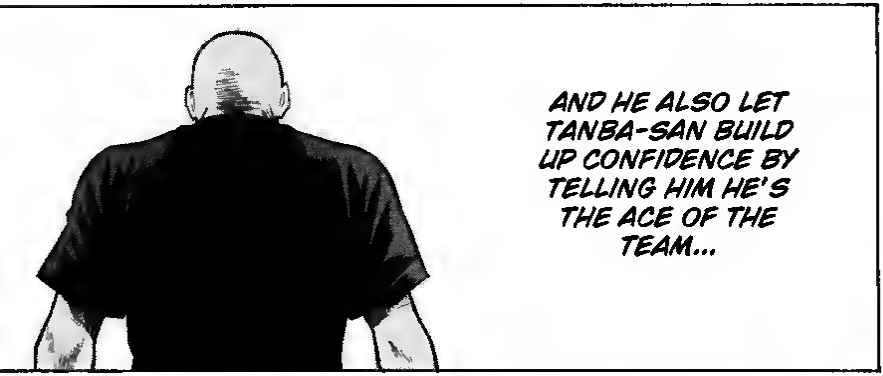
YOU STILL CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR OWN CONDITION?
...
...
...
GET READY FOR THE 5TH TOMORROW.
THE 5TH INNING...

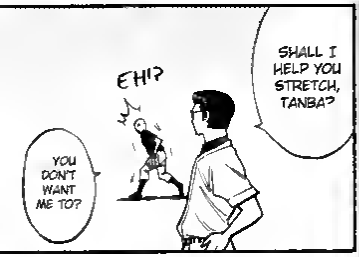
YAKUSHI IS STRONG.
IT MIGHT BECOME A WILD GAME.
EH!?
AND IF IT COMES TO THAT, I'LL DEFINITELY PUT YOU ON THE MOUND.
YOU, WHO IS THE ACE OF SEIDOU!

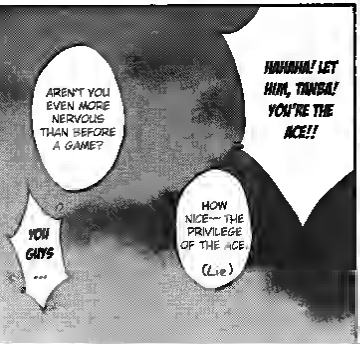
SHOW ME YOUR...
EFFORT OF THREE YEARS.



HE TOLD THE OTHER THREE THAT TANBA-SAN WOULDN'T PITCH, SO THAT THEY'D FOCUS MORE ON THEIR OWN ROLES...
I SEE NOW...

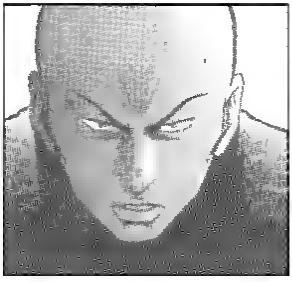

AND HE ALSO LET TANBA-SAN BUILD UP CONFIDENCE BY TELLING HIM HE'S THE ACE OF THE TEAM...


SHALL I HELP YOU STRETCH, TANBA?
EH!?
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO?


HAHAHA! LET HIM, TANBA! YOU'RE THE ACE!!
AREN'T YOU EVEN MORE NERVOUS THAN BEFORE A GAME?
HOW NICE— THE PRIVILEGE OF THE ACE. (Lie)
YOU GUYS ...

THAT'S WHAT THE COACH WAS AFTER—
OKAY... FINISH UP HERE!

FROM THE BEGINNING, HE
ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT FIGHTING WITH THE WHOLE TEAM...



Ace of Diamond

青道選手図鑑

Vol.16

27th July
SEIDOH ~!!
ダイヤのA
MIYUKI ~!!
TETSU ~!!
KATAOKA-SAN ~!!
DON'T GET OFF THE BUS BEFORE ME
SO ENERGETIC AGAIN TODAY
OKAY, LET'S ROLL!!
TOKI

CHAPTER 97/ READY TO BATTLE

Quarter-finals:
Seidou vs. Yakushi
TN 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
薬師
青道

IT'S PRETTY CROWDED
WELL, IT IS A MATCH TO DETERMINE ONE OF THE FOUR STRONGEST IN WEST TOKYO.
Of course it'd get attention
WHAT'S YOUR TAKE ON THE WINNER...
YAKSUHI HIGH SCHOOL IS THE RISING STAR THAT BEAT ICHIDAI...
AND SEIDOU AIMS FOR ITS FIRST KOUSHIEN TICKET IN 6 YEARS...

YAKUSHI HAVE THE MOMENTUM.
BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT, ISN'T IT
AS LONG AS THEY DON'T HAVE A WILD BATTING ORDER LIKE ICHIDAI, SEIDOU SHOULD HAVE THE UPPER HAND.
STILL, THEIR ACE TANBA-SAN HASN'T PITCHED EVEN ONCE SO FAR.
IF SEIDOU'S PITCHERS CAN'T STOP THE BATTING LINE-UP OF YAKUSHI, WHO CURRENTLY ENJOY HIGH MORALE....
HUH!?

IT'S CHANGED AGAIN FROM WHEN THEY PLAYED AGAINST ICHIDAI!!
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS ORDER!!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?
TUKIJI
...
YEAH...
THEY'VE ALREADY MADE THEIR MOVE
12th August
Yakushi High School
1 Todoroki
2 Akiba
3 Mishima
4 Yamauchi
5 Fukuda
6 Mino
7 Watanabe
8 Kobayashi
Oda
NUMBER 1, THIRD-BASE, TODOROKI RAICHI

SO THAT HE'D GET MORE CHANCES TO BAT AND IF IT'S JUST ONCE...
NO... HE STEPPED DOWN FROM IT...
AHAHA. SO HE WAS FINALLY TAKEN DOWN FROM SPOT #4.
WHA!! WHAT KIND OF TRICK IS THAT!?
WELL, HE'S THE FIRST BATTER.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT.
DON'T GET TOO PASSIONATE FURUYA
YOU TOO, IDIOT!!
THE COACH TOLD YOU, DIDN'T HE?

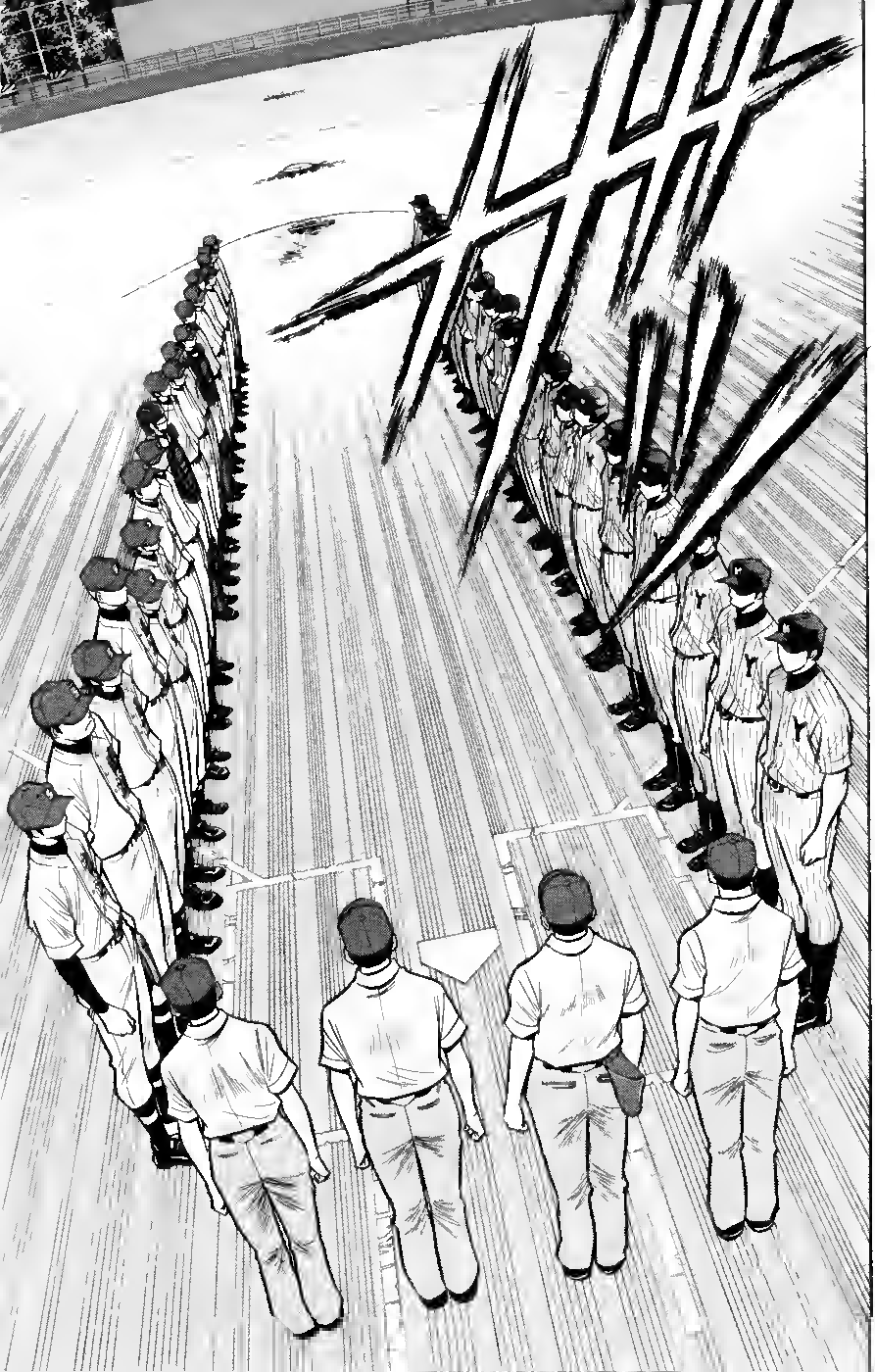
A PITCHING ORDER FOR VICTORY!!
FOR TODAY'S GAME, JUST THINK ABOUT PASSING THE BATON ON TO THE NEXT PITCHER!!
My head hurt~
Aww
WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN~!!
WIN.
WE'LL WIN!!

COACH, I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T DRINK ALCOHOL.
YOU KNOW~~~~ I DRANK TOO MUCH YESTERDAY~
I HAD ALL KINDS OF DRINKS...
I BET HE WAS WATCHING THE TAPES OF SEIDOU UNTIL MORNING...
Get me some Pocari~
HEY, RAICHI! DON'T STUFF YOURSELF RIGHT BEFORE A GAME
I MADE YOU #1 BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T STOP PESTERING ME.
IF YOU DON'T SHOW ME ANY RESULTS NOW, YOU AREN'T GETTING ANY DINNER.
OWW!
SPARE ME!
HEY, RAICHI!
THEN MAKE A HIT! BLOW THEM AWAY!!

THE QUARTER-FINALS MATCH SEIDOU VS. YAKUSHI WILL NOW BEGIN.
YOU HIT FOR YOURSELF!
AND YOU DEFEND FOR YOURSELF!!
LISTEN! IT'S ALL UP TO YOU NOW!!

AND THEN YOU EARN THE SWEET TASTE OF VICTORY!!
EVERY THROW
EVERY STEP
AND EVERY SWING ARE A REFLECTION OF YOUR TRUE SELVES.

NO NEED TO WAVER!!
オオオオオ
TOKYO
BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN STYLE!!



メラ
メラ
メラ
THEY'RE REALLY GLARING AT YOU
WHAT DID YOU DO, RAICHI...?

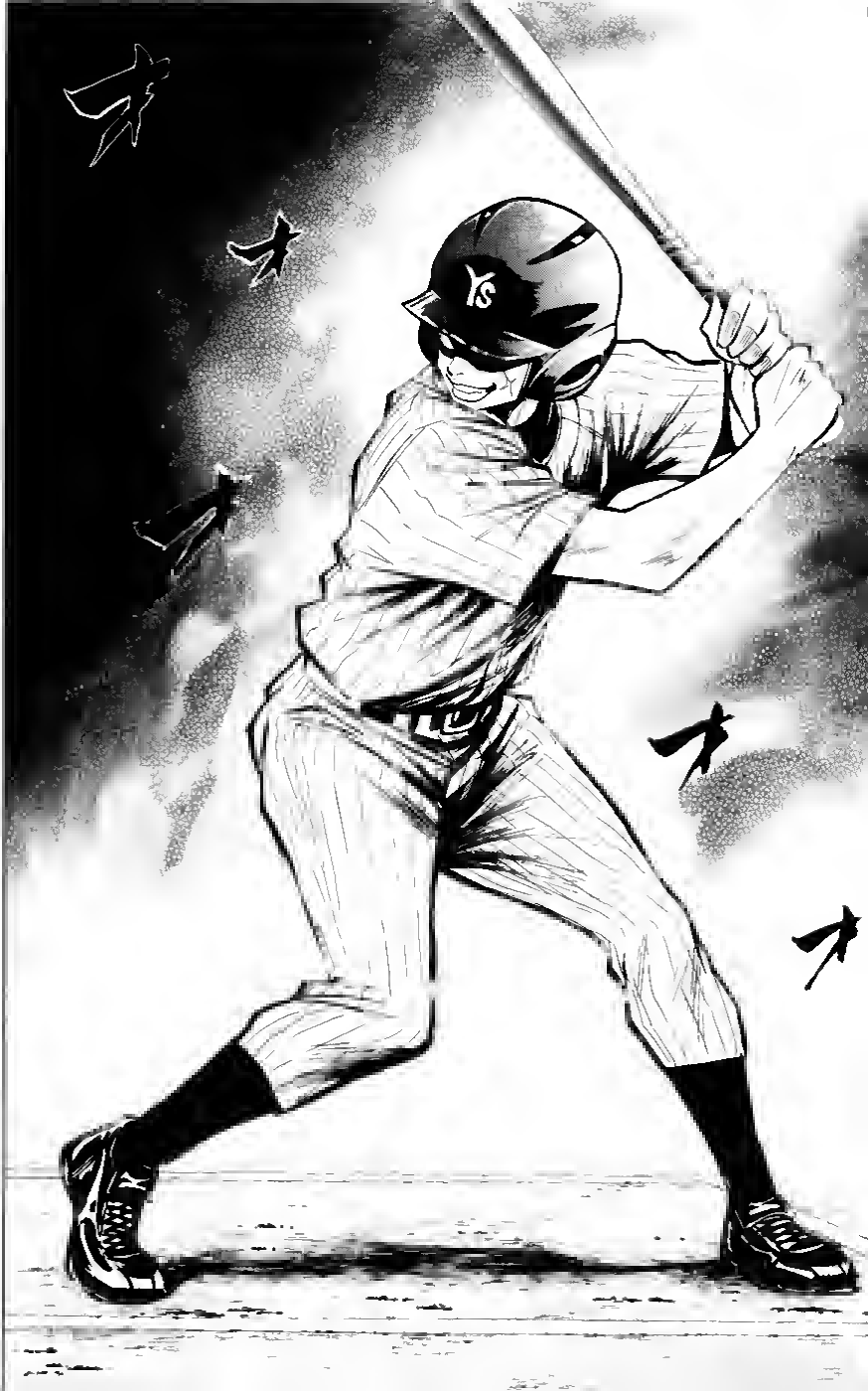
S
S
IS
HAHA...
KAHAHAHA

BOW!
HAH...!
GOOD GAME!!
OKAY, LET'S ROLL!!
TO THE BULLPEN~
OH!?
DON'T MAKE SUCH A FUSS ABOUT GOING TO THE BULL-PEN!!
SO MIS-LEADING!!

HE'LL GET IT LATER
HAHAHA. ACTING LIKE AN IDIOT LIKE ALWAYS.
OKAY. FURUYA-KUN'S OPENING WILL BE
IMPORTANT, MIYUKI-KUN...
HE'S THE MOOD MAKER, AFTER ALL!!
AT LEAST HE'S GOT SPIRIT
YOU NEVER GROW TIRED OF WATCHING HIM
I WONDER...
AND THE FIRST BATTER WILL ALREADY BE...

THAT'S WHAT I CALL BOLD...
HAVING HIM GO AS THE VERY FIRST...
THAT'S NOT AN EXPLOSIVE, BUT A NUCLEAR BOMB...
WELL... I DON'T THINK HE'LL HIT YOUR PITCH THAT EASILY...
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, FURUYA!!

TOP OF THE FIRST INNING, YAKUSHI HIGH SCHOOL ON THE OFFENSIVE.
NUMBER 1, THIRD-BASE, TODOROKI-KUN.
...IF WE
HOLD HIM DOWN THIS INNING, WE CAN TAKE THE INITIATIVE.
KILL HIM, FURUYA ～!!



THERE'S ONE PITCHER WORTH YOUR ATTENTION—
INASHIRO'S NARUMIYA MEI.
ONLY HIM!!
FURUYA....

SHOW HIM WHO'S BOSS—!!
11
PLAY BALL!
20

YAKUSHI		SEIDO
Todoroki Third-base	1	**Kuramochi** Short-stop
Akiba Left-fielder	2	**Kominato Ryou** Second-base
Mishima First-base	3	**Isashiki** Center
Yamauchi Right-fielder	4	**Yuuki** First-base
Fukuda Second-base	5	**Masuko** Third-base
Mino Pitcher	6	**Miyuki** Catcher
Watanabe Catcher	7	**Furuya** Pitcher
Kobayashi Short-stop	8	**Sakai** Left-fielder
Ooda Center	9	**Shirasu** Right-fielder

CHAPTER 98/ SUDDEN MEETING!

TOP OF THE 1ST.
120
NUMBER 1, THIRD-BASE, TODOROKI RAICHI
フハハハ
Ys
LET'S SEE HOW WELL FURUYA WILL COPE AGAINST THIS BATTER
WHO SPECIALIZES IN PITCHES RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE...
THE OPENING WILL BE IMPORTANT...
FURUYA ～!!
I CAN TAKE OVER ANYTIME～!!
COME —!!

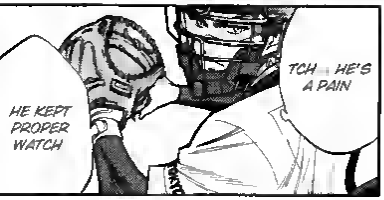
Ys
TOKYO

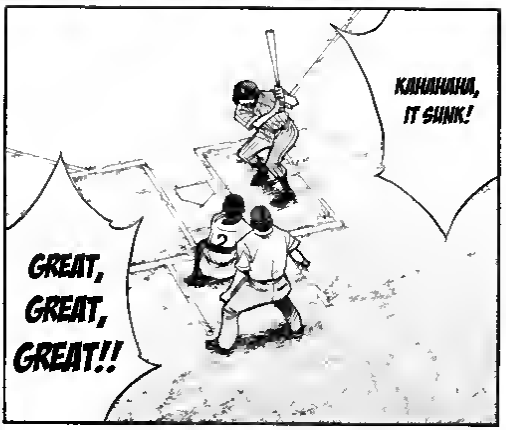
OH...
OHHHHH

THERE IT IS~~~
THAT'S THE PITCH!! THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR!!
THAT FURUYA IS CERTAINLY FIRED UP!!
IT WAS A BALL, THOUGH.
HAHA
KAHA-HAHA.

N- NOW THAT WAS A BLAST~
EVEN FASTER THAN I HAD IMAGINED...
HE DIDN'T BEND BACK...
GREAT!!
NEXT ONE WILL BE THIS...
NICE PITCH, FURUYA!!
KEEP IT UP!!
IT'S OKAY IF IT'S A BALL.
JUST THROW IT LOW—

BALL!!


TCH ... HE'S A PAIN
HE KEPT PROPER WATCH


KAHAHAHA, IT SUNK!
GREAT, GREAT, GREAT!!

I THOUGHT HE'D BE MORE AGGRESSIVE, BUT HE ISN'T SWINGING AT ALL
YEAH

I'M THINKING THEY WON'T WAIT FOR JUST THE RIGHT PITCH LIKE WITH AKIKAWA....
THOUGH SINCE THEY PICKED HIM AS THE FIRST BATTER,
OTHERWISE, THERE WON'T BE ANY MEANING TO OUR BATTING ORDER
GET ON BASE, RAICHI~
YOU ATE MY BANANA!!
WE DON'T NEED A WALK!!
RAICHI, BLOW IT AWAY!!
TAKE A FULL SWING WITH YOUR ARM.
EVEN IF WE'RE DOWN IN THE COUNT, THROW ANOTHER HIGH STRAIGHT.
0-2, HUH...
TOKYO

WE'LL HOLD HIM DOWN
THROUGH THE POWER OF THE PITCH ALONE—
11
20
Ys
ぐいっ

—WHA
GAH～
DAMN. DIDN'T HIT IT RIGHT...
20
TOKYO
H- HEY, WAIT.
THIS AIN'T FUNNY...

OHH..
A DIRECT HIT ON THE FENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND CENTER!!
I COULD SMELL THE HOMERUN.
GAH～～ SO CLOSE!!
RUN, RAICHI, RUN～～!!

NO NEED FOR A HEAD-SLIDING!!
KAHAHAHA, GOT SECOND BASE~!!
ACTUALLY, AIM FOR THIRD-BASE!!
IDIOT~!!
TOKYO
HE'S...
Kahaha
More like this
SO HE WOULDN'T LOSE TO THE POWER OF THE PITCH.
HE BASHED DOWN THE BAT FROM ABOVE.

STOP DITHERING
NO OTHER CHOICE BUT FOR ME TO GO IN!!
GET OFF THERE, FURUYA ～!!
Grrrr
CUT OUT THAT AURA ～!!
スコ゛コ゛コ゛コ゛
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
FOR NOW, LET'S GET ONE OUT!!
FIRST WE'VE GOTTA TAKE THE INITIATIVE!
YOU KNOW WHAT TO AIM FOR, AKABA....
NOD
THE MATCH HAS ONLY JUST STARTED.

NICE~ FURUYA!!
BE CALM ~~!!
THAT'S GOOD...
IF WE CAN HOLD BACK THE REST, THERE'S NO PROBLEM.

WHO CARES ABOUT A SPLIT-FINGERED FASTBALL.
RIGHT, SANADA～～
AKABA KNOWS HOW TO ACT.
YOU'RE TOO LOUD COACH!
WE'RE AIMING
FOR THE PITCH HE'S MOST CONFIDENT IN—
A SECOND BALL..
ビュッ
ブン

BASH IT FROM ABOVE!!

WHA....
HE DID THE SAME...

DON'T TELL ME, THEY'RE ONLY GOING AFTER FURUYA'S HIGH PITCHES—

MY ARM HURTS!!
HOW THE HELL COULD RAICHI SEND SUCH A PITCH SO FAR...

BASH THE SECOND BALL FROM ABOVE!!
KAHAHA-HAHA
NICE BATTING, AKKI!!
ダイヤのA

RIGHT AT THE LINE.
RUN, RAICHI, RUN!!
BACK HOME!!
THEY'RE... ONLY GOING AFTER FURUYA'S HIGH PITCHES--
WITH THE SET POSITION, HIS STRAIGHT PITCH LOSES ITS EFFECTIVENESS.
OUR SUPERIOR BATTING ORDER GOT THIS PITCH...
KAHAHAHA

THAT'S WHY I PUT RAICHI AS FIRST.
THE RUNNER FROM SECOND-BASE COMES HOME!!
KAHAHAHA
YAKUSHI HIGH SCHOOL SCORES THE FIRST POINT —!!

CHAPTER 99 RELIABLE SENIORS

STOP CALLING ME THAT!!
You're pronouncing it wrong
KAHAHAHA
FOLLOW MY LEAD, IMASHIIMA!!
F- FURUYA'S STRAIGHT GOT HIT TWICE!?
PROPER HITS AT THAT, NOT LOSING TO THE POWER OF THE PITCH...
HIT IT, HIT IT AWAY!!
YOU CAN'T WIN IN BASEBALL WITHOUT SCORING!!

NO...
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM BACK THEN, WHEN HE WAS TIRED FROM THE TRAINING CAMP...
W- WE SHOULD CONSIDER THEIR BATTING ORDER ON THE SAME LEVEL AS OOSAKA KIRIYUU'S, WHO DEVASTATED FURUYA BEFORE...
FURUYA'S PITCHES AREN'T BAD AT ALL...
DON'T IGNORE ME. Hey
CALM DOWN.
BUT WITH THIS,
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT IT.
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THEY'D BE AIMING FOR THE HIGH STRAIGHTS.
THEY GOT US.
WELL, BOTH THE HIGH AND THE LOW STRAIGHTS ARE WELL DEFINED, SO IT'S NOT LIKE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HIT THEM...

THIS TEAM IS STRONG!!

모락
모락

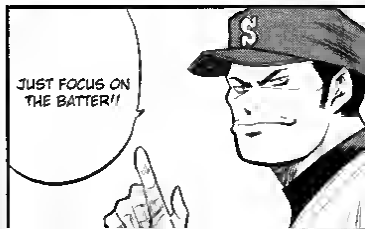
THEY AREN'T THE SORT TO STAY QUIET ABOUT THIS.
YOU STAY PUT!
GAH, I CAN'T WATCH THIS ANYMORE.
PLEASE LET ME GO!!
BUT EVEN MORE SO, THAT MIYUKI WON'T.
FURUYA WON'T LEAVE IT AT THAT EITHER...
WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO SNAP, JUST TAKE A LOOK BEHIND YOU.
BY ALL MEANS, THE STRAIGHT IS YOUR STRONGEST WEAPON
WE'LL BUILD OUR STRATEGY AROUND THE SPLIT-FINGER NOW.
I DIDN'T SNAP !!
DON'T SNAP AT EVERY HIT THEY GET OFF YOU.
YOU CLEARLY DID!!
11

YOU'VE GOT SOME RELIABLE SENIORS BEHIND YOUR BACK!

青道
青道

DON'T SNAP ON US.
Hyahaha
WHERE'S YOUR ANSWER?
ビシッ
ビシッ

FOR NOW, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE RUNNER.


JUST FOCUS ON THE BATTER!!

WE'RE READY ANYTIME!!
DON'T TENSE UP, FURUYA ~♪!!
IT SEEMS FURUYA-KUN ISN'T THE BEST OPENING PITCHER.
NOT JUST AGAINST AKIKAWA, BUT HERE AGAIN, THEY ALLOWED THEM TO TAKE THE LEAD.
AND I'M SURE, YAKUSHI WILL STIR THINGS UP.
WITH THEIR RUNNING, SINCE THEY DON'T BUNT...
BOTH TEAMS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD FIRST FROM THEM, BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM AKIKAWA'S INTENT TO MAKE FURUYA SELF-DESTRUCT BY WAITING FOR GOOD PITCHES....
IF THEY CAN'T HOLD THEM DOWN HERE,
THEY'LL SUFFER A GREAT POINT LOSS LIKE ICHIDAI...

FOUL!
UWAAA, ANOTHER HIT~
PITCH ALREADY!!
CLOSE CALL
GUESS THEY NOTICED OUR STRATEGY?
A STRAIGHT ON THE FIRST PITCH, HUH...

HE'S GOT POWER...
THAT CATCHER'S GOT IMPRESSIVE CONVICTION—
AND HIS SWING IS SHARP...
HE WASN'T CHOSEN AS A CLEAN-UP HITTER AGAINST ICHIDAI FOR NOTHING.
FURUYA...
LET'S BUILD UP THE COUNT WITH THE SPLIT-FINGER.

19
MAKING THEIR MOVE HERE?
TCH...
STEAL!
NOT JUST A BREAKING BALL,
BUT AN EXTRA LOW ONE THAT WILL BUMP DOWN ONCE...
2

I WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME IF I CATCH IT NORMALLY—
MH
2

TOO BAD.
TOKYO
OUT!!

IT BUMPED DOWN ONCE...
H- HEY, JUST NOW...
HE KNEW THAT, AND HE CREATED A POSITION FOR HIMSELF BY CATCHING IT SINGLE HANDED, SO HE COULD IMMEDIATELY THROW THE BALL!...
HE WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT IF HE CAUGHT IT RIGHT UP FRONT...
NOW IT'S ONE OUT.

EVEN AT THE FRONT YOU HAVE ONE SITTING, FURUYA...
A RELIABLE SENIOR THAT IS!
...
U..
S
UWAA

NICE PLAY, MIYUKI!!
MIYUKI-KUN
IT'S GOOD WE GOT AN OUT WITH IT,
BUT IF HE'D SCREWED UP, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PASSED BALL!!
HAHAHA DON'T MAKE SUCH A FUSS
WH-WHAT A CATCH!
YOU'RE REALLY SUCH A...
TN 1 2
薬帥
青道
—GEEZ, WHAT AN AGGRESSIVE PLAY...
YEAH—NOW THEY WON'T MAKE THEIR MOVE SO EASILY AGAIN.
BUT THIS PLAY HAD A BIG EFFECT.

HYAHA
WRA
AAAAR

NICE BAT-TING!!
JUN-SAN~!!
OHHH, A PAY-BACK FENCE HIT!!
OBVI-OUSLY
SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL TIES THE SCORE RIGHT AWAY —!!
IYA-HAHA
THIRD-BASE RUNNER BACK HOME!!

WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO SCORING, WE WON'T LOSE!!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, BASTARDS!!
TO THINK THEY STOPPED US AT ONE POINT IN THE FIRST INNING...
SEEMS YOU'LL GET YOUR TURN EARLY IN THIS GAME, SANADA!!
...

CHAPTER 100/ GROWTH

FWAH
オ
オ
オ
オ
……!!

KAHAHAHA
....
HAH...
WE WERE LUCKY IT HIT THE GLOVE.
HE ALSO REEKS OF MONEY.
WHAT A SWING!!
ANOTHER ONE ON THEIR BATTING ORDER TO WATCH OUT FOR IS—
THEIR NUMBER 6, THAT CATCHER.

IT'S OVER THE FENCE!!
THAT'S TWO RUNS, GIVING THEM THE LEAD!!
NICE BATTING, MASUKO-SEMPAI!!
HE MADE A COMPACT SWING.
YEAH... WITH A SWING LIKE THAT, HE COULD EVEN HIT A BREAKING BALL.
SO MUCH FOR SENIORITY RESPECT SAWAMURA-CHAN.
MA-SUKO!
HELL YEAH~ MASUKO~~
MASUKO, HELL YEAH~

EVERYONE'S SO FIRED UP!
I'VE GOTTA BE PART OF IT, TOO—
TYPICAL MIYUKI.
H- HEY, MIYUKI!!!
Argh, now I've done it...
WHY ARE YOU GOING FOR A BIG HIT WHEN THERE'S NO RUNNER ON BASE!!
THEY'VE CERTAINLY TURNED THE TABLE ON THEM
SEIDOU CLEARLY HAS THE MOMENTUM
薬師
青道
3

TOKYO
U..
UWA...
WHAT'S WITH THIS PITCH....?

BRING IT ON!
I'LL DEFINITELY HIT THAT STRAIGHT!!
IS HE REALLY A FRESHMAN ...?
HE IS.
He acts like a senior, though
WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THEM GOING AFTER THE HIGH PITCH NOW..
COULD IT BE THAT THEY CHANGED THEIR PLAN...
TO MATCH THE BUILD OF THE BATTER?

ATTRITION BY REPEATED PITCHING... WE'LL MAKE USE OF THIS WITHOUT MERCY.
AKIKAWA INVENTED A WAY TO CRUSH THIS PITCHER.
WHAT A TROUBLESOME OLD MAN.
HE'S MORE STUBBORN THAN HE LOOKS....
フッ
THEN—
2
ムッ

THE SET POSITION...
EVEN THOUGH THERE AREN'T ANY RUNNERS!?
EH!?

QUICK...
S
2

STRIKE!!
A LOW STRAIGHT...
WHA...
SO THEY ABANDONED POWER AND PRIORITIZED CONTROL.
NICE BALL!
THAT CATCHER HAS A KNACK FOR MAKING QUICK CALLS...
WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?
SO HE CAN PITCH LOW AFTER ALL!
WHEN DID HE ...?

BUT THAT CALL...
MIGHT END UP BEING DEVASTATING AGAINST OUR BATTING LINE-UP.
YOU THINK I CAN'T HIT THAT!?
BASTARD
WHAT'S NEEDED FOR THIS PITCHING METHOD IS
COURAGE—
DON'T BE AFRAID OF GETTING YOUR PITCHES HIT...

COURAGE TO BELIEVE IN THOSE BEHIND YOUR BACK.

DON'T GET COCKY, FRESHMAN!!

FURUYA, BASE COV—

FURUYA!
Got it!

NICE COVER, FURUYA!!
YEAAAAH
TETSU-SAN~~!!
NICE PLAY!!
RIGHT, TAKE THEM ALL OUT ONE BY ONE!!
HE DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT IT.
Nice
FIRST TIME HE'S PULLED IT OFF IN A REAL GAME, ISN'T IT?
……!!

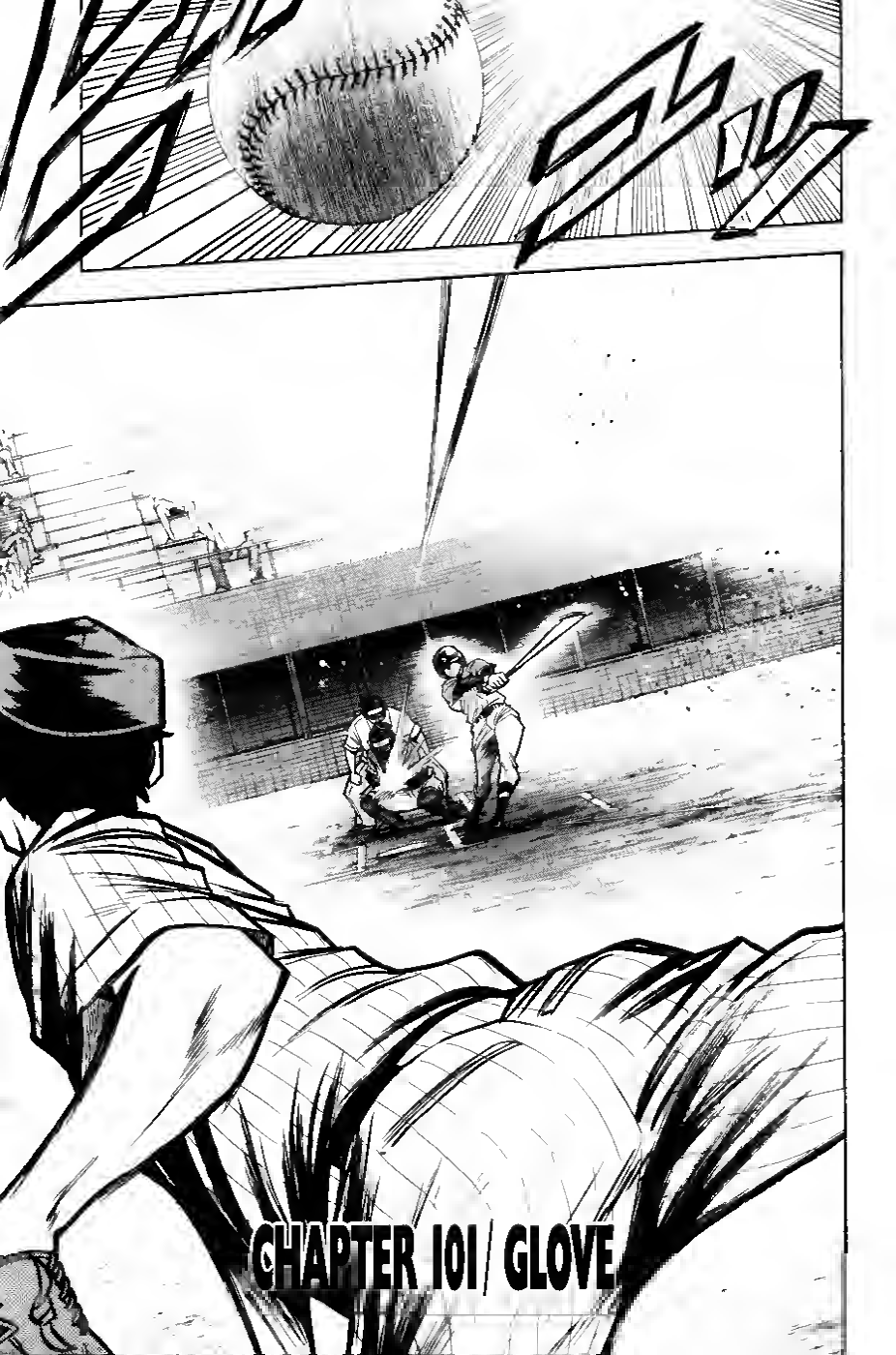
HE MOVED LIKE PRACTICED!
I'M GONNA KILL YA!!
W- WELL, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COMMEND HIM FOR THAT ONE.
NICE PLAY!!
HE REACTED FASTER THAN I COULD TELL HIM...
NICE PLAY!!
YOU'VE STARTED TO GROW—
FUUUYA ~!!

THROW ALREADY!!
DON'T FALTER!
HEH
HAVING PITCHED AS THE STARTER FOR FOUR GAMES AS A FRESHMAN IS DEFINITELY PAYING OFF NOW.
EXPERIENCE YOU CAN ONLY GAIN DURING A REAL MATCH.
PULLING OFF A PLAY OF THIS LEVEL IS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED..
HE STILL HAS A LOT OF SHORTCOMINGS AS A PITCHER...

ポコッ
SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOTTEN THE HANG OF IT!!
OK! NICE BALL!!
SEEMS LIKE WE CAN ONLY BREAK HIS SPIRIT NOW...
AND HE'S STILL JUST A FRESHMAN.
NOT BAD...
I WANT SOME MEAT...
モグ
モグ
WHEN RAICHI GETS HIS SECOND TURN—

ダイヤのA
エース

薬師 10
青道 3
NICE PITCHING!!
NICE, FURUYA!!
NICE PLAY, RYOU-SAN!!
OUTING THEM ON HITS ISN'T ALL THAT BAD, IS IT..?
ニヤ
フー
青道
スタ
スタ
HEY COMPLETELY IGNORING ME?
カポッ



CHAPTER 101/ GLOVE

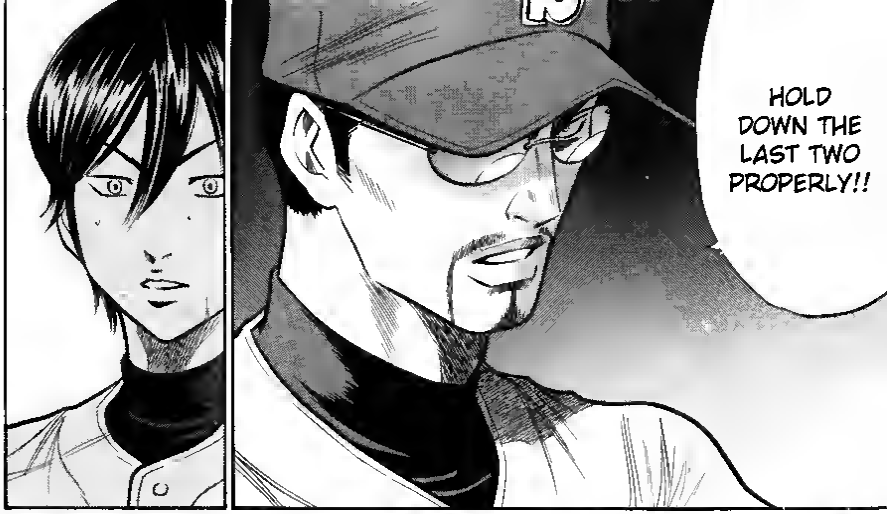
A... A DIRECT HIT ON THE BACK SCREEN!!
HE'S EVEN GREAT AT BATTING ~~~~!!
WHAT'S WITH HIM ...?
HE'S A MONSTER!! You'd never think he's a freshman
SO... HE WANTED TO MAKE UP FOR THE POINT HE GAVE UP WITH HIS OWN BATTING...
I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO GO FOR A SLIDE STEP WITH NO RUNNERS ON BASE
NOW IT'S 4-1.
THEY ALSO HELD THEM DOWN IN THE 2TH, SO I GUESS THEY DO HAVE THE MOMENTUM
THE SPEED MIGHT HAVE DROPPED, BUT IT'S STILL HAVING AN EFFECT.
HE LEARNED FROM THE GAME AGAINST AKIKAWA.

WHEN THE BATTING ORDER COMES AROUND AGAIN, NOW USED TO FURUYA-KUN'S PITCHING—
IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE NEXT INNING...
KAHA-HAHA!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT CONFRON—
HUH?
YOU'RE... GREAT.
REALLY GREAT!!

EVEN AT THE FRONT, YOU HAVE ONE SITTING, FURUYA...
A RELIABLE SENIOR THAT IS!
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO SCORING, WE WON'T LOSE! SAY YOUR PRAYERS, BASTARDS!!
TETSU-SAN~
NICE COMIN, FURUYA!!
IT'S FUN...

BASE-BALL IS SO MUCH FUN...
NICE BATTING, FURUYA!!
THAT WAS A NICE SWING.
DON'T STAND OUT SO MUCH, IDIOT.
Nice batting
Okay
19
I DON'T WANT TO GET OFF THE MOUND.
OUR RAICHI IS WAY BETTER!!
THAT WAS JUST A FLUKE!!
RIGHT, SANADA ~!!?
THAT'S WHAT I CALL PA-TERNAL LOVE.
I DON'T WANT TO GET SWITCHED OUT IN THE 5TH.

I WANT TO ENJOY THE GAME A BIT LONGER—
I WANT TO PITCH SOME MORE.
MIYUKI... IT'S A BIT EARLIER THAN PLANNED, BUT WE'RE SWITCHING OUT FURUYA FOR THE 2ND COME AROUND OF THEIR ORDER.
AH... YES.
FURUYA
YAKUSHI'S #8 AND 9 ARE IMPORTANT BEFORE THEIR CLEAN-UP HITTER TODOROKI COMES UP TO BAT.
ズゴゴゴゴゴ


HOLD DOWN THE LAST TWO PROPERLY!!

AFTER THAT, YOU'RE PLAYING LEFT-FIELDER.
BE PREPARED TO GET BACK ON THE MOUND ANYTIME.

WELL...
IT WOULD INDEED BE A WASTE TO PUT HIM ON THE BENCH GIVEN THE GOOD CONDITION HE'S IN TODAY.
Though I'm worried about his stamina

S- SAKAI...
When did you out ?
I'M SORRY THAT I COULDN'T CREATE A CHANCE.
AND YOU WERE LISTENING!?
FURUYA...
...
EH!?
YOU... DON'T HAVE A GLOVE FOR OUT FIELDING, RIGHT?
I'LL LEND YOU MINE WHEN YOU GO ON DEFENCE.

I MAINTAIN IT EVERY DAY, SO THE POCKET IS HARD...
IT LOOKS MESSED UP, BUT IT'S EASY TO HANDLE..
MIZUNO
WELL... I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE SWEAT SMELL, THOUGH
SAKAI...
SAKAI-SENPAI...
TOKYO

栄 師
青 道
1 2 3 4 5
1 0
3 1
NUMBER 8, SHORT-STOP, KOBAYASHI.

NUMBER 9,
CENTER,
OODA

TCH... IT WASN'T EVEN AN UNHITTABLE PITCH...
NICE PITCHING, FURUYA!!
NICE PITCH-ING!!
YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BRING ABOUT A TURN AROUND WITH JUST ONE HIT.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, RAICHI...
ブンッ
ブンッ

NUMBER 1, THIRD-BASE, TODOROKI-KUN.
TIME...
WE WANT TO CHANGE PITCHER, PLEASE.

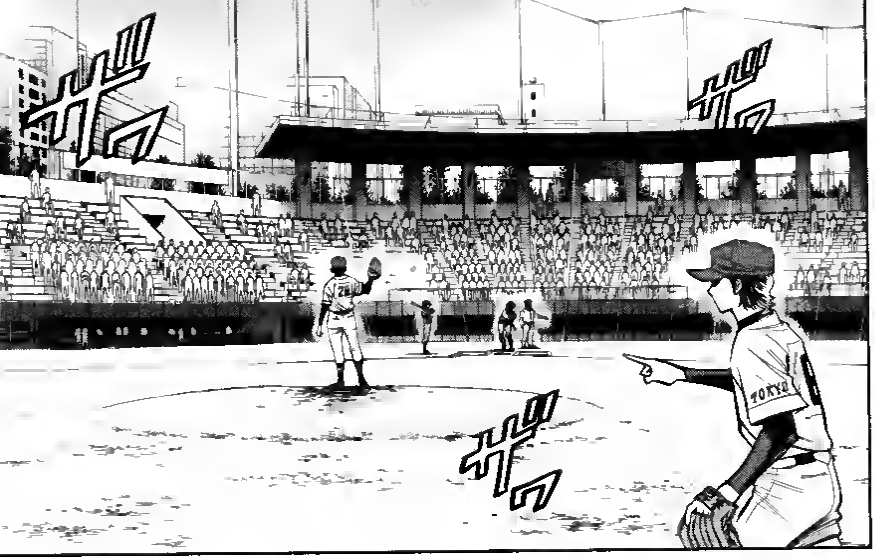
EH?
HUH!?
WASN'T THAT PITCHER IN GOOD FORM ..?
AL-READY?
CHANG-ING THE PITCHER!?
YEAH I WAS SURPRISED, TOO
THEY CHANGED PITCHERS SO EASILY AFTER ONE BATTING ORDER
HEY, HEY. IT'S JUST THE 2ND GO AROUND...
?

DAMN SNEAKY
BASTARDS.
THEY DON'T WANT OUR BATTERS GETTING USED TO THEIR PITCHING!!

THIS IS A CHANGE FOR THE SAKE OF VICTORY.

YOU'RE READY, I HOPE.
I'LL BE BORROW-ING YOUR GLOVE
YEAH! GIVE IT YOUR ALL!!
DON'T SNAP ON US!!
RIGHT, TAKE A DEEP BREATH!!
DON'T GET OVERZEALOUS.
JUST GO WITH YOUR OWN PITCHING—

SAWAMURA!



CHAPTER 102/ POTENTIAL

20
A FRESHMAN SOUTH-PAW HUH
HE DID SOME NICE PITCHING AGAINST AKIKAWA...
LEFTIE VS LEFTIE... THAT MIGHT BE THE KEY TO SEALING TODOROKI...

I'LL LET HIM HIT HARD,
SO EVERY-ONE KEEP UP THE...
青
...
D- DON'T REPHRASE IT!
You're just looking more stupid
WE GOT TWO OUTS, AFTER ALL.
AND NO RUNNERS AND ALL.
ACTUALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BATTER AFTER ALL.
What did you say!?

HERE COMES ANOTHER IDIOT—
NO, DO IT!
It's okay!
IS HE NERVOUS!?
TAKE ANOTHER DEEP BREATH!!
GREAT.
DON'T BE IMPRESSED, KAICHI!!
OR THEY'LL KNOW YOU'RE AN IDIOT, TOO!!
HE KEEPS TELLING THEM WHAT'S ON HIS MIND..
THIS IS SO HANDY...
FURUYA PASSED THE BATON TO YOU AFTER HOLDING DOWN #8 AND 9...
SAWAMURA...
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

ALL THE AKIKAWA BATTERS WERE BEATEN BY THIS PITCHER.
.....
YET, WHY COULDN'T THEY HIT ANY OF HIS PITCHES?
HIS CONTROL DOESN'T SEEM THAT GREAT...
AND HIS PITCHES AREN'T THAT POWERFUL...

I FEAR
TOKYO
20
HE'S GOT A PITCH WITH QUITE THE TRICK TO IT ...
MOVING, HUH...
...
THE SAME TYPE AS YOU, IS IT?
HE'S NOT THAT HOT!
HE'S JUST GOT A LITTLE TRICK.
BUT THAT LITTLE TRICK IS ENOUGH TO BECOME A WEAPON...
OR IS HE JUST A DEFECT...?
Ys

KAHAHAHA
SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS, RAICHI—
BESIDES THEM, THEY HAVE
ANOTHER TWO PITCHERS...
BUT I WAS QUITE INTERESTED IN THIS GUY, TOO, AFTER WATCHING THE TAPE
I REALLY WANTED TO HIT THAT FASTBALL AGAIN,
I CAN HIT A LOT OF DIFFERENT PITCHES IN THIS GAME...
KUKAKA...

S
THIS TEAM IS
Ys
INTERESTING!!

FIRST, LET'S TEST HIS ATTITUDE
LET'S SEE HIS REAC-TION TO A BALL
HE'S THE-ONE PERSON I DON'T WANT TO—
I DON'T WANT...
TO LET HIM...
20

RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE—
R-

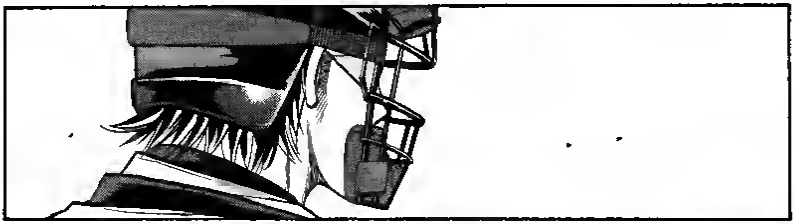
NO

STRIKE!!
TOKYO
JUST NOW... THE BALL MOVED SLIGHTLY!
HIS THROW SPUN...
...HAH
KAHAHA
2
2

WH-WHAT WAS WITH THAT RETURN...?
HE THREW IT BACK AT FULL POWER?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO IGNORE MY MITT,
THEN... I WON'T LEAD YOU ANYMORE...
SO THAT'S THE "CONCENTRATION ON THE BATTER" YOU SPOKE OF?

THEY'LL KEEP ON CHANGING PITCHERS, SO THAT YAKUSHI'S BATTERS DON'T GET USED TO THEM
...
THAT THROW COULD HAVE A LOT OF MEANINGS
MAYBE THE PITCHER DIDN'T FOLLOW HIS SIGN
WITH A SUCCESSFUL PITCHER CHANGE, THEY CAN GRAB THE MOMENTUM PERFECTLY...
BUT IF IT FAILS...
CERTAINLY, THAT GIVES THEM THE EDGE.
BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE, THAT JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW MUCH THEY FEAR YAKUSHI'S LINE-UP.

THE GREAT RISK THAT HIDES BEHIND THIS AGGRESSIVE PITCHER CHANGING...
I'M SURE MIYUKI-KUN IS AWARE OF IT...
2

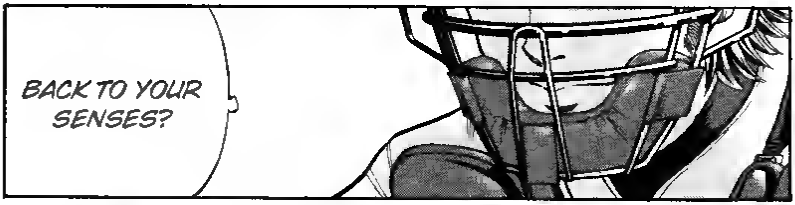


JUST THINK ABOUT CONNECTING THE GAME TO THE FOLLOWING PITCHER
A PITCHER CHANGE FOR VICTORY!!

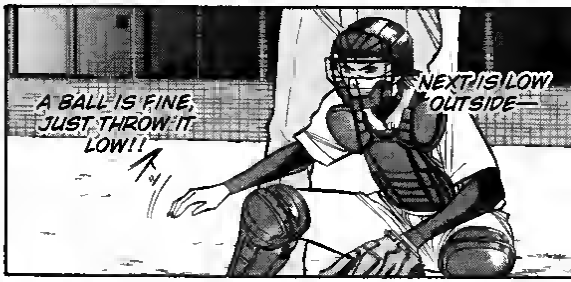
THIS ISN'T A PERSONAL VENDETTA...
RIGHT...

I WON'T LET TANBA THROW IN TOMORROW'S GAME.
YOU GO PLAY YOUR ROLE WITH THAT IN MIND.

IT'S A TEAM FIGHT!!


BACK TO YOUR SENSES?

KUKA-KAKA
20


A BALL IS FINE, JUST THROW IT LOW!!
NEXT IS LOW OUTSIDE—

……

GOOD~ CONFIRM THE COURSE OF THE PITCH WITH THE NEXT ONE!!
TELE-PATHY !?
AND HIS FORM IS SPECIAL, TOO!!
THE BALL MOVED AFTER ALL!!
KAHAHAHA
SO MUCH FUN!!
HIS LEFT ARM HIDDEN
—BY HIS BODY—

SUDDENLY...
Ys
BALL!!
カ
11
11
THIS TIME IT MOVED OUTSIDE..
20

HE'S GOT SOME GREAT POTENTIAL...
IT'S AN INCREDIBLE WEAPON....
KAHA-HAHA
—AWAY.

Ys
I WANT TO SEND IT FLYING AWAY.

—STAFF—

—EDITOR—

KIICHIRO SUGAWARA

MASAKATSU MINO

SHUJI SATO

—SPECIAL THANKS—

取材に訪れた高校で、練習中にスピーカーから音楽が流れていてすごくビックリした（笑）。
監督さん曰く「練習なんて基本は辛いモノ」。
だから少しでも楽しい気持ちになればいいと！
うーん、いろんな高校に行くたびに、
新しい発見と、それぞれのチームの工夫があってすごくおもしろい‥‥。
あとやっぱり、各校の監督さんはみんな個性的（笑）。寺嶋裕二

準々決勝薬師戦
渾身の一球
ダイヤのA
Ace of Diamond
第13巻予告
真打登場!
薬師のエースが出陣!!
打ち崩せるか、青道打線!

渾身の一打
まさに激闘
沢村vs.雷市
怪物スラッガー轟雷市の勢いを
沢村は止めることができるのか!?